Funds for Power Sector

683. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government has set up a panel consisting of Group of Ministers of examine the possibility of bringing funding for power under priority-sector-lending by banks and to examine financing issues including upgrading of power transmission and distribution networks;

(b) whether it has also been estimated that about $100 billion are required for the power sector during the Eleventh Five Year Plan and nearly $40 billion would be needed for upgrading of T&D network; and

(c) if so, the recommendations made and the steps taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) In the Conference of Chief Ministers on power sector issues held on 28.05.2007, the Hon'ble Prime Minister had announced constitution of a Sub-Committee of the Standing Group of Power Ministers to look at financing issues particularly for upgrading transmission and distribution networks.

Accordingly, a Sub-Committee of the Group of Ministers has been constituted to look at financing issues, particularly for upgrading transmission and distribution networks. The terms of reference of the Sub-Committee inter-alia, include making appropriate recommendations on the issues relating to identification of the specific needs of transmission, sub-transmission and distribution and the possibility of including power sector funding under priority sector lending. The first meeting of the Sub-Committee was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission on 17.10.2007. The Sub-Committee is yet to submit its recommendations.

The Working Group on Power for the XI Plan had estimated that the fund requirement for the power sector will be over Rs. 10,63,000 crore for the XI Plan period which, inter-alia, includes about Rs. 1,40,000 crore for transmission systems and over Rs. 3,09,000 crore for sub-transmission and distribution systems.

Supply of Power to Andhra Pradesh

684. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Central Government for allocation of 258 MW power unallocated power from Southern Region as per its due and additional 250 MW power from Eastern Region and North-Eastern Region to meet the acute shortage of power in the State;

(b) the response of Government thereto;

(c) the reasons for delay in sanctioning the requested allocation of powr to the State; and

(d) by when this request of the State Government is likely to be fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) Requests were received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh in the months of August and September, 2007 for allocation of additional 293-300 MW power from unallocated quota of Central Generating Stations (CGSs) in the Southern Region and 250 MW power from Eastern Region